Calendar No. 1521

82D CONGRESS, 2d Session } SENATE { REPORT No. 1589

UNIV. OF MICH.
MAY 29 1952
LAW LIBRARY

ENABLING THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ISSUE CERTAIN BONDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KALIHI TUNNEL AND ITS APPROACH ROADS

MAY 21 (legislative day, May 12), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. O'MAHONEY, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4923]

The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill, H. R. 4923, to enable the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii to authorize the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of Honolulu to issue certain bonds for the construction of the Kalihi tunnel and its approach roads, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

This bill would ratify and confirm Act 265 of the Session Laws of Hawaii, 1951, authorizing a $6,000,000 general obligation bond issue for the construction of the Kalihi tunnel.

Congressional approval is required since the amount of the authorization would exceed the debt limitation of 5 percent of the assessed valuation of property prescribed by the Organic Act of Hawaii.

For a long period of time efforts were made to obtain Federal aid for the construction of a tunnel from Kalihi Valley through the Koolau Range from Honolulu to the windward side of the islands, but it is now being undertaken as a Territorial project. No expenditure of Federal funds is required.

Delegate Joseph R. Farrington of Hawaii advises that such a highway is not only essential because of the growth of the city, but because it would serve as an important defense artery.

The payment of the principal and interest on this bond issue is to be made from fuel tax revenues of the city and county of Honolulu. The tunnel and its approach roads are considered necessary to alleviate present traffic congestion in that particular area.

The favorable report of the Interior Department to the chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, in which the Bureau of the Budget advises there is no objection to the submission of the report, is hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., December 5, 1951.

Hon. JOHN R. MURDOCK,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. MURDOCK: Further reference is made to your request for the Department's views on H. R. 4923, a bill to enable the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii to authorize the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of Honolulu to issue certain bonds for the construction of the Kalihi tunnel and its approach roads.

I recommend that this bill be enacted.

H. R. 4923 would ratify and confirm Act 265 of the Session Laws of Hawaii, 1951, authorizing the city and county of Honolulu, a municipal corporation of the Territory of Hawaii, to issue general-obligation bonds in the sum of $6,000,000 for the construction of the Kalihi tunnel and its approach roads. Congressional approval is required since such an amount of bonds, if included in the outstanding indebtedness of the city and county, would exceed the debt limitation of 5 percent of the assessed valuation of property in the city and county of Honolulu prescribed by section 55 of the Organic Act of Hawaii (48 U. S. C., 1946 ed., sec. 562). The proposed Kalihi tunnel would provide a transportation link between the city of Honolulu and the windward side of the island of Oahu, which is considered necessary to alleviate the present traffic congestion on the Nuuanu Pali Road.

The Legislature of Hawaii by joint resolution has requested enactment of legislation similar to H. R. 4923.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

MASTIN G WHITE,
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

O